(b) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Orissa Government has requested for additional foodgrains and money under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) In accordance with the eligibility criteria of Annapurna Scheme, destitutes aged 65 years or above are eligible for foodgrains under the Scheme, provided they are not in receipt of pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) or State Pension Scheme. However, the four states of Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka have informed that they do not have any eligible persons fulfiling this criteria of the Scheme.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa have requested for an additional allocation of Rs. 85.53 lakhs under the Scheme. As the State-wise allocations are made in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Guidelines of the Annapurna Scheme, no inter-State re-allocations have been done.

Misuse of food meant for 'Food for Work' Programme

1882. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States misuse of food meant for the 'Food for Work' programme has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) Certain complaints received in respect of diversion of foodgrains, timely payment of wages in time and involvement of contractors regarding the implementation of the Food for Work Programme have been forwarded to the

concerned State Governments for urgent action and to send a report in this behalf.

Setting up of National Village and Rehabilitation Mission

1883. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Village and Rehabilitation Mission has been set up by Government;

(b) if so, the village-wise details of additional houses constructed under the action plan of this mission in the State of Rajasthan; and

(c) the details thereof including village-wise number of such houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Ministry of Rural Development has not set up National Village and Rehabilitation Mission.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise.

Improving standard of living under various poverty alleviation programmes

†1884. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether people in most villages of the country are living in extreme poverty despite implementation of Centrally sponsored development schemes and poverty alleviation programmes by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve their standard of living especially in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) by when their results would be obtained?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.